

BAY-DELTA PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WATERSHED SUBCOMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Meeting Date/Location: Friday, May 16, 2003
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Jones & Stokes
2600 V Street
Sacramento, CA

Meeting Attendees: See Attachment A

Meeting Handouts: See Attachment B

Welcome and Introductions

Martha Davis, Watershed Subcommittee Co-chair, began the meeting with a welcome and round of introductions of all meeting participants (see Attachment A) and relayed Robert Meacher's apologies for his absence. Martha then went over some changes to the agenda.

Debrief of the April Mokelumne River Watershed Road Show

The subcommittee gave generally outstanding reviews of the Mokelumne River Watershed Road Show. The road show gave the Subcommittee a good idea of how the projects funded by the Watershed Program are contributing to the goals of watershed improvement. One subcommittee member mentioned that he was impressed by how the projects were landowner-driven, and how the landowners had taken the initiative, collaborated with each other, and weren't afraid to work with State and Federal agencies.

Dennis Bowker then gave a run-down of the Watershed Partnerships Seminar, which took place in May. He remarked on how much of a demand there had been for it – they were only able to accept half of the applicants. One of the Subcommittee members who had attended the Seminar commented on how rigorous the seminar was and how much learning took place regarding forming relationships, agencies, initiatives, and bonding. John announced that the Watershed Program is considering adding 2-3 day, smaller seminars to the agenda for smaller, interested groups.

Review and Discussion of the California Watershed Management Strategic Plan (Luree Stetson & Beth Jines)

Martha Davis pointed out that the California Watershed Management Strategic Plan is going to be the bible for the agencies that implement watershed-based projects, so it is critical that the planning language contained within it be as perfect as possible.

Renee Hoyos of the Resources Agency announced that a public meeting was held on April 30 for the public to provide input on the Strategic Plan, and Resources Agency and EPA staff are now using the comments gathered at that meeting to improve the plan. Ken Coulter pointed out that there is still work to do on the Strategic Plan, as it is still lacking an implementation plan. There will be one more steering committee meeting in June, then the newly-developed Watershed Council will review the plan.

The three co-chairs of the Watershed Council have been appointed, and they are: Mary Nichols (Resources Agency), Winston Hickox (Cal/EPA), and Martha Davis (public representative).

Beth Jines announced that the Watershed Council meetings (planned for at least twice a year) will be open to the public and will provide opportunities for public input and participation. The Council, because it encompasses so many regions and issues, will use subcommittees to work on specific issues. The first meeting is scheduled for June 30, all day.

Discussion then turned towards options for appointing representatives to the Council. Suggestions included appointing representatives by region (a representative of numerous interest groups from a single region), or by affiliation (equal representation between public, local agencies and State and Federal agencies). A Subcommittee member suggested making graduation from the Watershed Partnerships Seminar a requirement for appointment to the Council. Comments on the Strategic Plan and/or Watershed Council ideas should be sent to John Lowrie, Ken Coulter, or Renee Hoyos.

Presentation: Environmental Water Program

Campbell Ingram, from the CALFED Environmental Water Program (EWP), gave a PowerPoint overview of the program. The Environmental Water Program is a sub-program of the Ecosystem Restoration Program (ERP), and its purpose is to acquire water rights on streams tributary to the Sacramento and San Joaquin river systems to assist in carrying out the flow-related goals of the ERP. Specifically, the EWP aims to improve salmon spawning and juvenile survival, to restore critical instream and channel-forming flows, and to provide flows and habitat conditions for fish protection and recovery. Their current budget has \$7.3 Million available for environmental water acquisitions.

Currently, the EWP is in the process of initial implementation, which means they are trying to acquire 1-3 pilot water acquisitions. Acquisitions will be conducted on a willing seller basis, proposals will be developed by local interests and the ERP implementing agencies, and the acquisitions will be designed to test hypotheses regarding water management in a manner that facilitates learning through adaptive management, includes appropriate monitoring and will be peer reviewed by an external scientific panel prior to approval.

Target streams have been prioritized according to USFWS stream flow biological prioritizations, pilot program prioritization, and geomorphic/high flow prioritization. The resulting Tier 1 stream priorities include: Clear Creek, Mill Creek, Deer Creek, Butte Creek, and the Tuolumne River. EWP will review concept and full proposals prepared by Agency local representatives, local interests, academics, and consultants, then will select a few of these acquisition proposals

to fund and monitor. The funding agency will be one of the ERP implementing agencies (USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, or CDFG), depending on which agency the local Watershed groups are more comfortable with. All third party impacts will be thoroughly analyzed and mitigated for. Mr. Ingram also mentioned that the EWP is looking at other options such as groundwater exchange and recycled water programs.

– *Break for Lunch* –

Plan Future Watershed Subcommittee Road Shows

The draft schedule of the remaining Watershed Subcommittee meetings was approved. The schedule will be as follows:

June 20, 2003	Sacramento
July 11, 2003	Hunters Point (Joint meeting with the EJ Subcommittee)
August	Off
September 19, 2003	Sacramento
October 17, 2003	Feather River Watershed Road Show
November 21, 2003	Sacramento
December	Off

Ken McGhee, of the Environmental Justice Subcommittee, expressed his excitement about the upcoming EJ and Watershed subcommittees' joint meeting. He noted that he has recognized several overlapping goals between the Watershed Program and Environmental Justice, and feels that a joint meeting is an idea whose time has come. Other subcommittee members then expressed their hope that someday, all of the subcommittees would work together in mutual support, much like Watershed and EJ are working together now.

John Lowrie encouraged anyone who is interested in helping to coordinate the joint meeting in Hunters Point to contact him and volunteer.

Regarding the October Feather River Road Show, one meeting attendee suggested perhaps adding an optional second day to the road show, since there are so many on-the-ground projects underway in that particular watershed.

Review and Discussion of Watershed Program Draft Work Plan for Year 4 and Years 4-7

John Lowrie announced that there has been significant input on the draft Watershed Program work plans for Year 4 and for Years 4-7 from the CBDA implementing agencies. He gave special thanks to Sam Ziegler (USEPA), Stefan Lorenzato (DWR), Dennis Heiman (RWQCB), Russ Henly (CDF), and Casey Walsh Cady (CDFA), and handed out the draft work plans for review.

One Subcommittee member asked how the Watershed Subcommittee is related to the Watershed Council. John responded that that is a good question because there's no real answer; the Subcommittee will definitely work *with* the Watershed Council, but the Subcommittee is in no way subservient to the Watershed Council. The Subcommittee is run by the California Bay-

Delta Authority, which is a member of the board of the Watershed Council.

John then announced some of the planned expenditures for Year 4 of the Watershed program, including the normal annual grants, support of the Environmental Justice activities, another round of Watershed Partnership Seminars, support of watershed coordinators, refurbishing of all stream gages in the Bay-Delta system, and support of the “Working Landscapes” program, which Casey Walsh Cady introduced as a “voice for how locals can work in CALFED and produce benefits”. The program has no dedicated funding as of yet, but some money is also coming out of ERP to assist farmers.

John also mentioned that the Watershed Program, with the assistance of IWAT and the Science Program, will be working in 03-04 to design and convene a “Science Panel” to assist in formulating a set of key issues, questions, and processes relating to watershed management, and the contribution of watershed management to the goals and objectives of the Bay Delta Program. Martha Davis recollected that the Watershed Program had kicked a lot of money into the Science Program in the past to help get it off its feet, and asked if they will be helping the Watershed Program to fund some of its science actions in the future. John said he has received no indication that they would do so, and Martha suggested that this issue should be raised at the BDPAC.

Eugenia Laychek pointed out that BDPAC has a clear lack of understanding about what the Watershed Subcommittee actually does for CBDA and how it benefits other program activities. She recommended that a presentation be made to BDPAC to describe Watershed Program benefits to other program elements and activities.

Next Meeting

The next Watershed Subcommittee meeting will be held on **Friday, June 20, 2003**, at Jones and Stokes (2600 V Street, Sacramento), at 10 a.m.

Attachment A

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Name	Affiliation
Arias, Meriah	CalEPA
Blakeslee, Jeannie	Department of Conservation
Bowker, Dennis	CA Bay-Delta Authority—Watershed Program
Bratcher, Tricia	California Department of Fish and Game
Brodie, John	San Joaquin County Resource Conservation District
Cady, Casey Walsh	CA Department of Food and Agriculture
Chilcott, Jeanne	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Cornelius, Jim	Calaveras County Water District
Coulter, Ken	State Water Resources Control Board
Crooks, Bill	City of Sacramento
Davis, Martha	Inland Empire Utilities Agency
Deen, Alisha	Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Farahnak, Shahla	State Water Resources Control Board
Foster, William	SWRCB
Freeman, Robin	Environmental Justice Coalition for Water/Merritt College
Garver, Lynden	Kings River Conservation District
Gould, Randy	US Forest Service
Harris, Bob	Cow Creek Watershed Management Group
Haze, Steve	Millerton Watershed
Heiman, Dennis	Regional Water Quality Control Board
Henly, Russ	CDF
Horney, Cindy	GCRCD
Howard, Vance	Yolo County RCD
Hoyos, Renee	CA Resources Agency
Hui, Amy	Environmental Justice Coalition for Water
Ingram, Campbell	US Fish and Wildlife Service
Keithley, Chris	CDF
Keller, Mary	Sutter County
Lamont, Juliet	Urban Creeks Council
Laychek, Eugenia	California Bay-Delta Authority
Leiningner, Chris	Ducks Unlimited
Liu, Qingin	CA Department of Fish and Game
Lorenzato, Stefan	CA Department of Water Resources
Lowrie, John	California Bay-Delta Authority
Lunt, Tina	Cosumnes River Task Force
Martin, Sara	Jones & Stokes
McGhee, Ken	CBDA
Murrison, Teri	East Merced RCD
Ness, Suzanne	EIP Associates
Ohlson, John	Yolo County Dem. Centr. Committee
Pierson, Wayne	State Water Resources Control Board
Roberts, Ken	SRS
Russick, Kathy	Sacramento River Watershed Program
Shockley, Erica	Upper Merced River Watershed
Smith, Lynda	Metropolitan Water District

Swearingen, Vieva
Ward, Kevin
Warner, Holly
Webber, Lori
Wermiel, Dan
Zezulak, Dave
Ziegler, Sam

Cottonwood Watershed Group
UC Davis ICE
Upper Merced River Watershed
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
California Bay-Delta Authority
CA Department of Fish and Game
US Environmental Protection Agency

MEETING MATERIALS

- Meeting agenda
- Previous meeting draft summary
- BDPAC Watershed Subcommittee Proposed 2003 Meeting Schedule
- Annual Year 4 Watershed Program Plan
- DRAFT Multiyear Watershed Program Plan (Years 4-7)
- Project Narrative of the Development and Evaluation of the California Watershed Assessment Manual
- Summary Table of Proposed Watershed Data Projects: Fire and Resource Assessment Program, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
- Comments to the Watershed Strategic Plan
- Environmental Water Program Overview for the Watershed Subcommittee
- Memorandum of Understanding between the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Resources Agency for the Watershed, Clean Beaches, and Water Quality Act Integrated Watershed Management Program
- CALFED Watershed MOU
- Working Landscapes Subcommittee Information Sheet